

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9836

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SUBJECT: NEW SECOND MINISTER OF FINANCE NAMED

1. VILJO LUUKKA, WHO HAS SERVED AS SECOND MINISTER OF FINANCE IN COALITION GOVERNMENT OF MARTTI MIETTUNEN SINCE IT WAS NAMED NOVEMBER 30, 1975, WILL BE REPLACED TODAY (APRIL 9) BY ESKO REKOLA, THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. LUUKKA ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REASONS OF HEALTH. HIS REPLACEMENT, LIKE HIMSELF, IS NON-POLITICAL NON-SOCIALIST. THE CABINET BALANCE THUS REMAINS 9 SOCIALISTS (COMMUNISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) AND 9 NON-SOCIALISTS.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA: REKOLA, WHO IS CHIEF OF CHANCERY IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, WAS BORN IN TAMPERE JUNE 10, 1919. AFTER WAR SERVICE HE FINISHED STUDIES FOR LAW DEGREE AT HELSINKI UNIVERSITY IN 1945 WHERE HE WAS ACTIVE IN STUDENT POLITICS. REKOLA WORKED FOR ASSOCIATION OF RURAL GOVERNMENTS FROM 1948-54. AFTER TEACHING MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION FOR TWO YEARS HE JOINED TAX DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE MINISTRY IN 1956, MOVING TO BUDGET DEPARTMENT IN 1959. IN 1965-66 HE SERVED AS SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT TO COUNCIL OF STATE (FINNISH CABINET). HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FINNISH STATE RAILWAYS IN 1966 WHICH HE HEADED UNTIL HE MOVED TO THE TOP CAREER POST IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY IN 1973. REKOLA HAD

THREE CHILDREN BY HIS FIRST WIFE, A JUDGE, WHO DIED
IN 1973. HE HAS SINCE REMARRIED.

3. REKOLA HOLDS, OR HAS HELD, NUMEROUS IMPORTANT
POSITIONS OUTSIDE HIS CIVIL SERVICE CAREER. MOST
IMPORTANT WAS HIS NINE-MONTH SERVICE AS MINISTER OF
FINANCE IN REINO LEHTO'S 1963-64 "EXPERT" GOVERNMENT.
REKOLA HAS SERVED ON NUMEROUS STATE COMMITTEES AND
ON BOARDS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS AND STATE-OWNED
COMPANIES. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
OF WSOY (ONE OF FINLAND'S LARGEST PUBLISHING COMPANIES)
AND CHAIRMAN OF TAMPERE UNIVERSITY COMMISSION. REKOLA
HAS BEEN MEMBER FINNAIR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINCE
1973. HE HAS ALSO REPRESENTED FINLAND AT WORLD BANK
MEETINGS. IN A RECENT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW HE DESCRIBED
HIMSELF AS ENJOYING THE CHALLENGE OF NEW DISCIPLINES.
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